

Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Annual Report 2004

Pat Takasugi, Director



Idaho State Department of Agriculture
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Director/Secretary Pat Takasugi

Pat Takasugi was first appointed the director/secretary of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in March 1996, and then re-appointed by Governor Kempthorne in January 1999. Pat is a grower/shipper and continues to farm over 1,300 irrigated row crop acres of alfalfa seed, onions, wheat, pea seed and garden bean seed on fields near Wilder and Homedale. Pat is a 54-year resident of Idaho and a 27-year third generation farmer. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Albertson's College of Idaho in 1971, Pat served five years active service and five years reserve service in the U.S. Army, achieving the rank of Captain. While in active service, Pat served as a Green Beret A-Team commander in the U.S. Special Forces, 10th Group. Pat and his wife, Suzanne, have three children; Taylor, Cole and Paige.

Present Ag Commitments

- President - Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA)
- Board of Directors - National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- Chairman – Governor's Idaho Invasive Species Council
- Member - The Farm Foundation – Bennett's Roundtable Executive Committee
- Member - University of Idaho, College of Agriculture, Dean's Advisory Board
- Member – College of Southern Idaho, Agriculture Advisory Board

Past Ag Group Affiliations and Positions Held:

- President – National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)
- President – Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA)
- Chairman - U.S.-Canada Working Group, advisory to U.S. Trade Representative
- President - Idaho Crop Improvement Association (ICIA)
- President – Northwest Alfalfa Seed Growers Association (2 terms)
- President - Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Growers Association (3 terms)
- President - Canyon County Farm Bureau (3 terms)
- Chairman - Idaho Alfalfa Seed Commission (IASC)

Agricultural Awards:

- Idaho Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farmer & Rancher – 1st Place (1979)
- Idaho Jaycees Outstanding Young Farmer of Idaho – 1st Place (1981)
- Idaho Crop Improvement Association Outstanding Service Award (1991)
- Albertson College of Idaho – Distinguished Alumni Service Award (1996)
- Idaho Co-op Hall of Fame – Idaho Co-op Council (2000)
- Outstanding Republican Administrator – State GOP (2000)
- University of Idaho - Distinguished Associate Alumni Award (2003)

Objectives:

- To work with all Idaho commodity organizations in proactive partnership problem-solving.
- To promote and educate consumers about Idaho agriculture.
- To efficiently administer the department in a business-like manner.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Administration



Mike Everett, Deputy Director

Division of Administration and Marketing & Support Services

The objective of the Division of Marketing & Support Services is to enhance the diversity and profitability of Idaho's food and agricultural enterprises. Our agriculture diversification programs help stimulate rural economic growth through the development of new crops, new uses of existing crops and value-added processing. Export market development is also a priority, which we enhance with ongoing promotions in key international markets. Along with supervising the above activities, the deputy director also oversees the administrative programs of the department including: financial management, human resources, information technology and legal services. The role allows the department's director to spend more time working with industry and advocating for Idaho's agricultural community.

Mike Everett, Division of Agricultural Resources

The Division of Agricultural Resources is designated to protect human health, the environment, and animal and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The division registers, and trains and licenses pesticide applicator(s) and chemigator(s). Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. The Division also incorporates the Engineering Section to provide professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho. In 2003, the Smoke Management and Crop Residue Disposal (CRD) Program was assigned to the Division.

Division of Agricultural Inspections

The Division of Agricultural Inspections continues to make adjustments in order to provide the best service possible to the citizens, producers and shippers of Idaho. As Idaho continues to grow, so do the responsibilities of our Bureau of Weights and Measures staff. With the development of new technologies, new processes are being created and utilized to verify their accuracy to the Idaho public. The Bonded Warehouse program continues to improve with the implementation of new, more effective laws to better protect the producer, including those growers who grow seed under bailment contracts.



Lee Stacey, Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection inspects and certifies the grades on more than 10 billion pounds of Idaho commodities. Idaho's commitment to quality is recognized throughout the United States and in the international arena. We are proud of the part we play in this endeavor. In order for our producers to sell their commodities to retailers, they have to have Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in place as well as Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). This division is working with the private sector to offer auditing programs to accomplish these important goals.

Dr. Clarence Siroky, Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs, Animal Health and Livestock, and the Rangeland Management Program. Major functions include: disease control and eradication; inspection and testing of animals, milk and milk products; approval and inspection of dairy and beef waste systems; inspection and licensing of dairy processing facilities and various other animal agriculture facilities; enhancing the viability of rural communities by providing leadership in managing Idaho's natural resources and assistance in resolving rangeland management issues. This division's animal lab provides regulatory testing of animals for domestic and foreign markets; detection and control of animal diseases; and the testing of milk and milk products for quality, purity and adherence to standards of identity composition.

**Michael E. Cooper (Acting), Division of Plant Industries**

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, certification of organic food products and inspections of potato brands and potatoes at retail outlets. Division functions include: field inspections of crops and laboratory analyses for phytosanitary certification; survey and detection of exotic pests and diseases; registration of feeds, fertilizers, soil and plant amendments, nurseries, bee colonies and seed dealers; enforcement of quarantine rules; coordination of regional and statewide weed control activities; and advising and assisting county weed control authorities of noxious weeds. The feed and fertilizer lab analyzes samples for accurate label claims, while the seed lab performs germination, tetrazolium, purity, noxious weed, cold and other special tests for over 200 different crops from Idaho and nine other western states.

**Jerry Nicolescu, Idaho Soil Conservation Commission**

The Soil Conservation Commission was created in 1939 to address soil and water conservation and related natural resource issues. It fulfills its mission by providing support and services to Idaho's 51 soil conservation districts for the wise use and enhancement of soil, water and related resources. Commission staff provides technical, fiscal, and administrative assistance to districts and local landowners and users. Over 20,000 Idaho farmers, ranchers and landowners are served through soil conservation districts.

**ISDA ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

Ag in the Classroom
Commodity Indemnity Fund
Crop Residue Disposal Advisory Committee
Fertilizer, Soil and Plant Amendment Advisory Committee
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Inspection Advisory Committee
Fish and Game Advisory Committee
Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Advisory Committee
Idaho Potato Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho Preferred Advisory Board

Idaho Seed Arbitration Committee
Idaho Seed Industry Advisory Committee
Idaho State Seed Laboratory Advisory Board
Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee
Organic Food Advisory Council
Pesticide Licensing Advisory Committee
Rangeland Management Advisory Committee
Seed Indemnity Fund
State Nursery and Florist Advisory Committee

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture

The Idaho State Legislature created the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) in 1919 to assist and regulate the state's fast growing agricultural industry. The primary purposes for establishment were to protect Idaho's crops and livestock from the introduction and spread of pests and transmittable diseases, to help provide the industry with a system for the orderly marketing of agricultural commodities, and to protect consumers from contaminated products or fraudulent marketing practices.

The department derives its statutory authority from multiple sections of the Idaho Code. Section 22-101 creates the Department of Agriculture and the position of director. Section 22-102 provides that the director "shall organize the department into such divisions and other administrative sub-units as may be necessary in order to efficiently administer the department," and section 22-103 lists specific directorial duties. Title 22 also contains the authority for the Plant Industries Division, the Agricultural Resources Division, and the department's Marketing Bureau. The primary authority for the Animal Industries Division lies within Title 25 and Title 37, while the Agricultural Inspections Division, which includes the Bureaus of Weights and Measures and Bonded Warehouse, derives authority from Titles 69 and 71.

In 1997, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission was realigned to reside within the Department of Agriculture. While maintaining a level of independence, the commission and department work cooperatively to coordinate complimentary programs and responsibilities, especially in the areas of agriculture and related natural resources. The commission's authority is derived from Title 22, Chapter 27. Five commodity commissions - the Idaho Alfalfa and Clover Seed Commission, Idaho Honey Advertising Commission, Idaho Hop Commission, Idaho Mint Commission and Idaho Sheep Commission - are also technically housed within the ISDA, although each entity maintains its autonomy.

In the past year, the department conducted a thorough review of the Idaho State Code in order to address outdated statutes. As a result, Title 22, Chapter 26 Cooperative Marketing Associations was amended during the 2004 legislative session, to eliminate duplicative reporting requirements and Title 22, Chapter 30 was repealed eliminating the Idaho Prune Commission. Furthermore, sections of the Idaho Code were amended to enhance our ability to serve consumers and agriculture by exempting certain seed dealers from licensing requirements, improving the process for establishing fertilizer penalties, and easing the ability of growers to establish crop management areas.

The 2004 legislative session also passed several livestock bills. Title 22, Chapter 49 Beef Cattle Environmental Control Act was changed to provide additional requirements for nutrient management plans. A new section was added to Title 25, Chapter 2 Inspection and Suppression of Diseases among Livestock, allowing the Division of Animal Industries to promulgate rules for the identification of livestock, poultry or fish. The chapter was further amended to improve cooperation between the Division of Animal Industries and the Department of Fish and Game regarding the separation of big game and livestock in certain areas. Title 25, Chapter 37 Domestic Cervidae Farms was amended to improve identification and animal control.

The department is currently staffed with approximately 297 full-time employees. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection and other units of the department also hire hundreds of seasonal employees each year with as many as 300 being on-board at any one time in 2003.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has a current budget of approximately \$31.2 million. Only 30 percent of the budget comes from the state general fund. The vast majority of the department's funding comes from various types of fees assessed directly to the segment of industry being regulated or receiving services. Federal sources also assist the department with the funding of certain programs.



The Idaho State Department of Agriculture is housed in the Wilson "Bill" Kellogg building dedicated on October 12, 1979.

A Mission, A Vision, A Philosophy

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has adopted the following mission, vision and philosophy to help direct the agency's regulatory, promotional and policy-making activities toward a common goal:

Mission

Serving consumers and agriculture by safeguarding the public, plants, animals and the environment through education and regulation.

Vision

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) faces many challenges as a result of its expanded service role in a complex industry immersed in a growing urban population, and considerable economic and environmental demands. Ensuring efficiency and superior service delivery with limited resources is a priority. The director and his executive management staff believe that fostering an atmosphere of mutual respect - which encourages personal and professional development through education and training, as well as providing a challenging work environment - is crucial to departmental success.

Department personnel strive to work cooperatively at all levels, utilizing appropriate technologies and tools to support creative, responsive and accurate decisions. Above all, ISDA pledges to optimize the value of those funds entrusted to it and to dedicate all of its resources to working towards the optimal benefit of its customers.

Operating Philosophy

ISDA believes in maintaining a logical, harmonious and proactive working relationship with producers, processors and consumers to ensure a safe, wholesome food and fiber supply, while simultaneously safeguarding the environment. As a team, department staff work as professionals dedicated to effective performance and are unwavering in our promotion of a positive future for Idaho agriculture. ISDA seeks to promote a creative, highly motivated workplace that emphasizes personal and professional growth, while at the same time allowing individuals and the agency to remain open to meeting new challenges and seeking new opportunities. The department is committed to those principles that enable us to better serve our customers in a responsive, honest and ethical manner.

ISDA Goals

- To maintain the highest possible quality and safety of food and fiber.
- To continue implementation of "quality service" oriented programs to meet the current and future needs of our customers.
- To promote public awareness, education and understanding of the agriculture industry.
- To increase the economic diversity and vitality of Idaho agriculture.
- To expand domestic and international markets for Idaho food and agriculture products.
- To work cooperatively with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission to implement the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process throughout Idaho agriculture.
- To promote a customer-focused environment.
- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of departmental operations.
- To increase the overall professional capabilities of department employees.
- To fulfill the training needs of each department employee.
- To develop an infrastructure that integrates our strategic plan, internal controls and zero-based budgeting.
- To improve communication lines with internal and external customers.
- To implement effective department safety awareness through a strong risk management program that makes accident prevention an integral part of each employee's job and performance expectations.

ISDA 2004 Budget Highlights

<i>Operating Budget</i>	FY2001 Actual	FY2002 Actual	FY2003 Actual	FY2004 Approp	FY2005 Approp
<i>By Program:</i>					
Administration	1,310,200	1,445,500	1,629,600	1,777,300	1,752,200
Animal Industries	5,137,000	5,422,900	5,289,500	5,669,600	5,809,900
Agricultural Resources	2,873,300	3,186,000	3,264,500	3,232,100	3,384,700
Plant Industries	2,585,500	2,838,900	3,115,400	3,598,400	3,828,400
Agricultural Inspections	8,312,100	10,192,200	10,201,100	10,265,700	10,419,100
Marketing and Development	703,700	1,842,500	2,664,500	993,500	1,014,600
Animal Damage Control	361,311	400,300	392,400	427,300	407,300
Sheep Commission	101,500	169,800	169,800	170,600	176,500
Soil Conservation Commission	4,610,700	4,425,300	4,425,300	4,375,600	4,435,200
Total	26,005,300	31,152,100	31,152,100	30,510,100	31,227,900
<i>By Fund Category:</i>					
General	10,013,200	10,645,000	9,892,000	9,357,400	9,497,600
Dedicated/Other	12,776,200	15,539,900	16,928,200	17,703,500	18,123,800
Federal	3,215,900	3,822,900	4,331,900	3,449,200	3,606,500
Total	26,005,300	30,007,800	31,152,100	30,510,100	31,227,900
% Change from Previous Year	4.49%	11.03%	-2.20%	-.96%	2.35%
<i>By Object of Expenditure:</i>					
Personnel Costs	14,908,900	15,687,600	19,157,400	18,957,400	19,892,800
Operating Expenditures	4,738,200	5,227,500	6,285,000	6,139,600	6,234,300
Capital Outlay	834,300	1,048,400	350,600	628,800	524,000
Trustee/Benefit Payments	5,523,900	8,044,300	5,359,100	4,784,300	4,576,800
Total	26,005,300	30,007,800	31,152,100	30,510,10	31,227,900
Full-Time Positions (FTP)	205.31	207.56	207.56	202.6	206.6

ISDA 2004 Legislation



H546: Cooperative Marketing Associations – Eliminated duplicative reporting requirements for agricultural cooperatives.

H547: Prune Commission – Repealed the Prune Commission which had not functioned for over twenty years.

H548: Commercial Fertilizers – Amended to improve the process for establishing penalties for ingredient deficiencies in commercial fertilizers.

H549: Pure Seed Law – Provides that seed dealers only selling seed in small packages of less than eight ounces are exempt from licensing requirements.

H614: Commodity Indemnity Fund – Provided that advisory committee members' honorarium will no longer be considered salary as defined in section 59-1302(31), Idaho Code.

H615: Seed Indemnity Fund – Provided that advisory committee member' honorarium will no longer be considered salary as defined in section 59-1302(31), Idaho Code.

H653: Domestic Cervidae Farms – Provided for visible identification on domestic cervidae, provided authority for the registration of domestic cervidae farms and improved the Department's ability to control escaped animals.

H678: Crop Management Areas – Provides for the establishment of a crop management area in those areas where there are less than 25 or no registered electors residing within the confines of the proposed crop management area.

H682: Beef Cattle Feeding Operations – Provides for additional requirements for nutrient management plans.

H776: Smoke Management and Crop Residue Disposal – Increases the fees relating to the registration of fields for agricultural burning from \$1 per acre to \$2 per acre.

H806: Inspection and Suppression of Diseases Among Livestock - Provides for the Division of Animal Industries to promulgate rules for the identification of livestock, poultry or fish.

S1313aa: Bonded Warehouse – Provided for annual reporting of commodities stored in warehouses.

S1417: Inspection and Suppression of Diseases Among Livestock – Amended the chapter to improve cooperation between the Division of Animal Industries and the Department of Fish and Game regarding the separation of big game and livestock in certain areas.

Division of Marketing & Support Services

International Trade and Domestic Market Development

The objective of ISDA's International Trade and Domestic Market Development program is to expand markets for Idaho food and agriculture products, and to foster agricultural diversification. The department promotes Idaho food and agriculture products around the world. Total sales as a direct result of ISDA's marketing program totaled \$5,992,466 in FY2004. Every dollar in general fund returned \$11.73 to Idaho's farmers, ranchers, value-added food processors and rural communities.



One of last year's highlights was the launch of the Idaho Preferred™ Program. Initially funded through a federal grant, the program promotes the quality, diversity, and availability of Idaho agriculture products. By increasing awareness of products grown and produced in Idaho, the program helped Idaho producers increase sales.

The first in-store Idaho Preferred™ promotion was held in September at the Nampa Wal-Mart. Twelve Idaho products were featured during the event, and sales of those products were up 104% over the same period the previous year. In addition to Wal-Mart, the department promoted the Idaho Preferred™ mark with promotional events at Paul's Market and Bon Appetit Boise, radio spots, a billboard campaign, and television advertising.



Kempthorne kicks off Idaho Preferred at Wal-Mart Supercenter in Nampa.

On the international front, Governor Dirk Kempthorne led a trade mission to Mexico in October 2003. This was the third mission Kempthorne has led to Mexico and by far the most successful. Total sales of agricultural products as a direct result of the mission exceeded \$2 million. Valued Partner Awards given to key customers were presented to Grupo Modelo, Gigante, Soriana and others. The mission included stops in Guadalajara, Mexico City and Monterrey. In Mexico City, a press conference was held in a Gigante supermarket launching an in-store promotion of yellow onions. Contacts made in Monterrey developed into Idaho's first cooking show in Mexico. In December, an Idaho chef demonstrated Idaho products on a cooking show on TV Azteca, one of the largest television stations in Northern Mexico.

Another highlight has been the growth in sales of yellow onions to Mexico. The department has been coordinating promotions of yellow onions for the past few years. In FY2004, total sales of onions into Mexico exceeded \$675,000. The combined strategic approach involving missions with Governor Kempthorne, bringing select buyers to Idaho and conducting in-store product demonstrations in major retail stores have yielded great results. Prior to the promotions, Mexican consumers were only purchasing white onions resulting in few, if any, yellow onions being sold into Mexico.

These efforts in Mexico also developed a significant market for Idaho wheat. The department received a Quality Samples Program Grant from USDA that facilitated the shipment of 37 railcars of Klasic Hard White Wheat valued at over \$1.8 million.

The department has also focused on Central America, which is targeted as an emerging market. A delegation of produce buyers visited Idaho in August and an in-store promotion was held in September and October. The promotion was conducted in major retail stores in Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador. The promotion was successful in securing new customers for Idaho potato shippers, resulting in over 10 containers of fresh potatoes. In addition, gala apples were sold into the market. Overall, total sales exceeded \$125,000.



Governor Kempthorne spoke at a press conference at Gigante during a Trade Mission to Mexico.

In Asia, the department promoted Idaho wines to the Taiwan market. ISDA hosted Jeff Tseng of Chateau Harvest Corporation to Idaho to tour the wine industry. The company purchased over \$30,000 worth of Idaho wine and also published a full-color hard bound book of Northwest Wines in Chinese that featured seven different Idaho wineries.

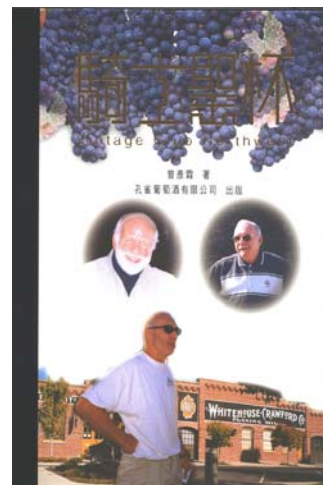
This past year, the department participated in the Taipei International Food Show in Taiwan; the ANTAD Supermarket Show in Guadalajara, Mexico; Food and Hotel Korea in Seoul; and the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago. The marketing division hosted numerous trade teams, sponsored five educational workshops, published several brochures and directories, and hosted the annual Buyers' Showcase in Boise in September along with the Idaho Specialty Foods Association.

A new program managed by the department in 2004 was the non-fat dry milk program. The division administered the federal drought relief program designed to provide feed assistance to producers of beef, bison, sheep and goats in seven drought-stricken counties. Over 5.5 million pounds of non-fat dry milk (NDM) was distributed to nearly 465 producers. The total value of the assistance was approximately \$220,000.

The department manages the Idaho-Mexico Trade Office in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, in cooperation with the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor. The trade office assists Idaho companies with market intelligence, buyer contacts, trade promotion and government relations. During the past year, the trade office helped establish a new market in Mexico for Idaho trout. As a result, consumers can now purchase trout products in various supermarkets in Mexico.

ISDA actively addresses international trade barriers such as tariffs, quotas and phytosanitary regulations that restrict Idaho agriculture exports and limit market access. The department maintains an Idaho Trade Issues Report, which identifies 114 trade issues in 22 world markets. This report has been disseminated to state and federal officials including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representative. The division has also been involved with numerous bi-lateral meetings such as the U.S./Canada and the U.S./Mexico Accord Working Groups.

For more information, call 208-332-8530, e-mail Laura Johnson at ljohnson@idahoag.us or view the marketing website at www.idahoag.us/marketing/.



Idaho wines are featured in a Chinese language book.

Support Services Bureaus

The **Attorney General's Office** provides for the varied legal needs of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture through two in-house deputy attorneys general. The deputy attorneys serve as legal counsel and advisors to ISDA and associated commissions. Legal services include those relating to legislation, rules, contracts, policies, leases, disclosure of public records, administrative proceedings, contested cases and personnel issues.

ISDA's **Financial Management** section is designed to manage all budgeting, financial control, accounting, facility maintenance, purchasing, inventory management, and related financial activities for the entire department. The Financial Management section also provides customer assistance for all financial concerns specific to the department.

The department's **Information Technology** section is an integral part of ISDA's mission. By working with other members of the ISDA team, they strive to increase productivity by providing an effective, efficient technology structure for all ISDA employees statewide. ISDA's Webmaster is part of this group.

The department's **Human Resources** section directs all recruitment, compensation, classification, performance management, staff development, civil rights, risk management, payroll and related human resource management activities for both classified and non-classified employees. ISDA employs more non-classified than classified employees. The programs established for these two groups are similar in most aspects, although there are some differences in hiring and termination procedures. ISDA's staff more than doubles with the addition of temporary employees during seasonal operations.

Division of Agricultural Resources



Training the trainer

The Division of Agricultural Resources works to promote, direct and ensure safe agricultural and environmental practices. The division registers pesticides, and trains and licenses pesticide applicator(s) and chemigator(s). Coordination with agriculture professionals, agencies, and the public has improved the processes in protecting human health, the environment, and fish and wildlife species of the state from potential adverse effects of pesticides. Major functions are described below.

The **Enforcement Program** investigates complaints involving pesticides, and monitors pesticide use throughout Idaho. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) works through a cooperative agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure compliance with federal and state pesticide laws and rules. Compliance is achieved through education, audits and

regulation. In FY2004 the division conducted 204 investigations, inspections and compliance audits. Forty-nine allegations of pesticide misuse were filed with ISDA, which is the second lowest number of complaints received for a fiscal year. Two hundred eighty enforcement actions were taken consisting of 29 hearings and 28 civil complaints against applicators and/or dealers resulting in 23 civil penalties and 17 license suspensions. Other enforcement actions consist of one criminal case, 31 warning letters, 102 regulatory letters, and 31 stop sale, use or removal orders. Eighteen cases were forwarded to EPA for review and potential enforcement action.

The **Pesticide Licensing and Certification/Pesticide Applicator Training Program** verified recertification credits for 864 seminars throughout Idaho in FY2004, with ISDA actively conducting training in more than 100 of them. Four major applicator training events occurred during FY2004: Environmental Care Association Conference, Idaho Potato School, and two regional events. ISDA continues to update the applicator testing materials to meet the demands of industry and the public. Three categories were revised/upgraded in FY2004. Over 8,000 pesticide applicators and dealers are licensed and supported.

The **Idaho Worker Protection Standard (WPS)/Farm Worker Safety Program** has been recognized as a national leader for its accomplishments. Since implementation of the program, WPS staff has logged over 57,000 contacts with the agriculture community including training 676 certified trainers, 8,378 handlers and 13,317 workers in safe pesticide use. The Worker Protection Program has increased pesticide awareness, promoted proper pesticide use, and encouraged the proper use of personal protective equipment. In FY2004, the Field Operations staff conducted 58 Tier I inspections, 22 Tier II inspections, and 73 WPS pesticide label inspections. Also during this year, 21 stop sale, use, or removal orders were issued on products that were not in compliance with the WPS labeling requirements.

The **Private Applicator Recordkeeping Program** continues to work with the United State Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service that requires certified private applicators to maintain Restricted Use Pesticide application records for two years. These records are inspected by ISDA personnel and can be made available to emergency medical personnel in cases of suspected human exposure to pesticides. In FY2004, ISDA conducted 188 initial recordkeeping inspections, issued five (5) warning letters for record violations and conducted one follow-up inspection from a warning letter issued in FY2003. Since entering into the cooperative agreement with USDA, ISDA has published a recordkeeping handbook in English and Spanish for private applicators in Idaho; published a brochure that outlines recordkeeping requirements for private applicators, professional applicators and dealers; made over 5,000 personal contacts concerning the program; and conducted over 1,000 inspections in Idaho. In addition, ISDA is developing a downloadable private applicator recordkeeping program through the Idaho OnePlan.

The **Container Recycling Project (CROP)** is a cooperative venture with private industry to recycle empty pesticide containers. Over 103,000 containers were processed in calendar year 2003. The chipped plastic containers may be recycled into truck beds, pallets, fence posts, speed bumps and parking lot stops. The **Pesticide Disposal Program (PDP)** is a free program for users to dispose of unusable pesticides in an environmentally conscientious manner. The program conducts two major collections each year - one in the spring, which serves southwest and northern Idaho, and one in the fall that serves eastern and central Idaho. The PDP will hold a collection in conjunction with Canyon County's Household Hazardous Waste

collection in the fall of 2004. Over a half million pounds of unusable pesticides have been safely and properly disposed of since the start of the program.

The **Water Quality Program** implements agricultural monitoring and protection programs with public and private partners to protect ground and surface water quality. ISDA leads the implementation of the *Agricultural Ground Water Quality Protection Program for Idaho (1996)* through the Agricultural Ground Water Coordination Committee. ISDA implements ground water monitoring and protection projects related to pesticides, nutrients, and animal waste impacts. ISDA also works with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (SCC) to implement an Agricultural Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Monitoring Program related to the Clean Water Act. ISDA works with Soil Conservation Districts to evaluate sources of agricultural contaminants and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Information dissemination and local coordination with the agriculture community and the general public are key to the success of the water quality programs.

The Idaho Pesticide and Chemigation law requires that a minimum of 250 chemigation inspections be conducted each year. Also, as part of the EPA Cooperative Agreement, the ISDA conducts a minimum of five **chemigation** USE inspections each year. ISDA again met its requirements by conducting 253 chemigation inspections as well as five Chemigation USE inspections in FY2004. The ISDA is reviewing information submitted by chemigation equipment manufacturers who wish to have their chemigation equipment included on ISDA's list of approved equipment. An application for equipment approval and independent laboratory testing forms are also in the works.

The **Urban Pesticide Program** works with non-agriculture pesticide users to promote the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to control pests in urban situations. During FY2004, six "IPM in Turf Management" workshops were conducted statewide. Additionally, ten mosquito control training sessions were conducted. Exhibits were presented at association meetings and State Fairs (estimated 80,000 viewers). Seven meetings with public health officials at local health departments were held to introduce the pesticide enforcement program and IPM concept to environmental health staff members, and eighteen inspections or investigations with an IPM emphasis were conducted at urban facilities.

The **Engineering** Section provides professional engineering services and consultation to the agricultural communities of Idaho. These services include planning, design, construction inspection and approval of livestock waste facilities and land treatment systems; providing technical information regarding environmental issues; chemigation training and inspections; on-farm implementation of best management practices; and management of the Nutrient Management Program.



Adding pesticide to a spray tank

The **Smoke Management and Crop Residue Disposal (CRD) Program** manages the practice of burning crop residue to control disease, weeds, and pests, while maintaining federal and state mandated air quality standards. Over 106,000 acres of cropland were registered in this program for FY2004. The program has effectively demonstrated that agricultural burning practices can be managed to reduce the impact of smoke on Idaho's population while maintaining the tool of field burning for growers.

Recent Achievements

- Began negotiated rule making to establish a response system for detection of pesticides in ground water.
- Conducted water quality monitoring, and coordinated with statewide and local water quality improvement plans and projects.
- Successfully integrated Smoke Management/CRD program.
- Processed over 103 recyclable containers in FY2004.
- Combined fall pesticide collection with Canyon County's Hazardous Waste Collection.

Future Goals

- Food Quality Protection Act implementation.
- Complete the Idaho State Pesticide Management Plan for Ground Water Protection and implement Rules
- Develop BMP effectiveness protocols for agricultural TMDL program.
- IPM training and outreach to retailers of general use pesticides.
- Implement a comprehensive statewide nitrate and ground water protection process.
- Completion of an approved list of Chemigation equipment.

Division of Agricultural Inspections

Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection

The Federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Service was started in 1917, but its authority was restricted to work in destination markets where the inspections were only made by Federal Market Inspectors. In 1922, Congress extended the service to shipping points by adding to the authority the words, “when offered for interstate shipment,” and so began Idaho’s Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection. This service is a joint federal-state program entirely supported by fees collected from users of the service.



Early 1900s era, “bucking” Idaho spuds.

Photo courtesy of Idaho Potato Commission

This bureau maintains a Boise headquarters staff along with four district offices strategically located in Idaho’s production areas. Present locations are: Caldwell, Burley, Blackfoot and Idaho Falls. The bureau is the largest within the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, serving producers, shippers and processors in 36 of the state’s 44 counties. Annually, the bureau performs inspections on 10 different commodities and certifies over 13 billion pounds of produce. To provide this service, the bureau supports a staff of 475 employees in 17 different job classifications. Although some positions are staffed year-round, 75 percent of the workforce is employed in seasonal, part-time positions.

Employees of the Shipping Point Inspection program inspect commodities for quality and condition at the shipping point, using official grade standards developed by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for fresh fruits and vegetables. The Bureau of Shipping Point Inspection established a third party auditing program that helps Idaho producers and shippers meet the increasing demand for Good Management Practices (GMPs) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs). The bureau conducts ranch (field), harvest crew, packinghouse, and educational (walk-through) food safety audits on fruits and vegetables for both the fresh pack and processing industry.

The Dealers in Farm Produce Act is also part of this bureau’s responsibilities. Those subject to licensing and bonding under this law are buyers, brokers and commission merchants who deal in potatoes, hay, onions and other commodities not covered under the bonded warehouse or commodity dealer laws.

Recent Achievements

- Developed a Customer Assisted Inspection Program, which allows shippers and packers to be involved in the certification process resulting in a 50 percent cost reduction in inspection fees.
- In cooperation with USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, developed a customer driven Federal-State Audit Verification and Training program for good agricultural and handling practices resulting in increased marketing opportunities for Idaho’s fresh fruit and vegetable industry.
- Reduced contract inspection costs to processors and producers by 15 percent.
- Issued phytosanitary inspection certificates on loads of fruit and vegetables certified and shipped to 18 different countries.
- Established a chemical maturity monitoring testing station to control sucrose and glucose content levels in potato tubers during the growing and development stages and during storage life.

Future Goals

- Improve communication between office, field staff and industry through computer technology.
- Expand technology and use with respect to electronic grading equipment and internal disorders in potatoes.
- Provide industry with services requested in a timely manner and at a cost-effective rate.
- Strive to achieve 100 percent compliance among individuals who are required to be licensed under the Dealers in Farm Produce Act.
- Maintain up-to-date information on all aspects of food safety and food security.
- Develop more precise information gathering and tracking practices through the timesheet entry program.

Warehouse Control Program

ISDA's Warehouse Control Program is responsible for regulating public warehouses, commodity dealers and seed buyer facilities. Idaho's warehouse and seed industries store and market a wide variety of commodities such as wheat, barley, oats, dry edible beans, peas, lentils, and a number of other diverse seed crops grown in Idaho.

Warehouse inspectors conduct examinations, which help to ensure that a warehouse operator continues to maintain a stock of commodities reflective of what has been deposited by producers. Commodity dealers are also examined to ensure that producers are being paid for their product.

The Commodity Indemnity Fund (CIF) and the Seed Indemnity Fund (SIF) offer additional protection for producers should a warehouse, commodity dealer, or seed buyer failure occur. These two \$12 million funds are supported by producers' assessments and allow producers to recoup losses due to such a failure.

Recent Achievements

- Entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the state of Washington.
- Developed and implemented a risk-based warehouse examination program.



Grain elevator in North Idaho.

Future Goals

- Develop the ability to perform a more in-depth examination based on risk analysis.
- Continued training of inspectors to better serve licensed warehouses, commodity dealers and seed facilities and producers.

Bureau of Weights and Measures

The Bureau of Weights and Measures consists of eight field inspectors stationed throughout the state. A ninth field position is currently being covered by the chief and metrologist. In the Boise office, a clerical specialist, a metrologist/field supervisor and a bureau chief support the field staff. Bureau responsibilities include statewide: inspection of accuracy and suitability of commercial weighing and metering devices; inspection of packaged products to ensure net contents meet labeled weight, volume or count; investigation of short delivery and misleading advertising; and monitoring of octane labeling. The bureau also tests vehicle and livestock scales to assure accurate weighing of products and commodities bought and sold. The metrology laboratory provides traceable calibration of mass, length and volume standards for our own legal metrology needs as well as for industry.



Balance used to calibrate industry standards.

Recent Achievements

- The staff completed training on electronic propane meter calibration. Training was held at the Boise office and included trainers from F-Rams, Liquid Controls, and Mid-Com.
- Instituted decontamination procedures for testing livestock scales to proactively prevent spreading livestock diseases.
- Conducted negotiated rule making and initiated a licensing program for commercial devices as directed by the legislature.

Future Goals

- Continue to work toward accreditation for the Metrology Laboratory by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).
- Continue to develop relationships with regulated industries and service personnel for better compliance with Weights and Measures laws.
- Update all Weights and Measures Rules.
- Continue training for W&M personnel for safety and professionalism.

Division of Animal Industries

The Division of Animal Industries consists of the Bureaus of Dairy and Eggs; Animal Health and Livestock; and the Rangeland Management Program. The division has 43 full-time employees and an annual budget of approximately \$5.7 million. Major functions are described in the following bureau & program summaries.

Bureau of Dairy and Eggs



One of Idaho's 751 dairies.

The Bureau of Dairy and Eggs provides oversight on the dairy and egg industries within Idaho. This oversight helps to ensure safe, wholesome milk, milk products, shell egg and poultry products for consumers. The programs encompass sanitary inspections of dairy farms, bulk milk haulers, processors, manufacturing and processing equipment, warehouses, stores and other businesses where milk and dairy products are manufactured, stored, sold or offered for sale. Other duties include inspection of establishments where shell eggs are packaged, stored or offered for sale. This bureau is also responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from dairy farm waste, which is accomplished through routine inspections and testing of dairy farm waste handling and containment facilities, land application sites, and review and approval of new or modified systems.

In addition to state enforcement requirements, this bureau works in conjunction with several federal agencies through cooperative agreements or memoranda of agreement to protect the environment and ensure safe food products. Laws and rules require dairy farms to develop nutrient management plans (NMPs) on all licensed dairy farms. These plans also aid in the appropriate applications of nutrients to cropland. A certification process has been implemented to assist in the development of these plans. The department uses ground-truthing plans to verify information. The bureau is also responsible with enforcement of the Agriculture Odor Management Act as it relates to Idaho dairy farms. Dairy farms that emit odors in excess of those odors normally associated with agriculture in Idaho would be cited by ISDA thereby requiring the facility to develop an Odor Management Plan to reduce odors. The bureau works in conjunction with the University of Idaho and the industry to find economically viable and effective means to minimize offensive odors on dairy farms.

The **Rangeland Management Program** provides leadership and technical support to Idaho agriculture producers.

The primary thrust of this program is to provide technical support and assistance to Idaho rangeland livestock producers. This support is delivered to both individual producers upon request and to local groups and associations through participation and support of collaborative teams such as local sage grouse working groups. Services include assistance for planning and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) including grazing systems, range improvements, and inventory and monitoring. Support is also provided to livestock producers in reviewing and mediating agency actions, including those actions imposed for plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act which impact private and federal grazing allotments.



Range monitoring with permittee and Forest Service staff.

The Rangeland Management Program provides service and support to producer groups such as the Idaho Cattle Association and the Idaho Wool Growers Association. It also works with and supports the programs of the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission and professional associations such as the Society for Range Management.

Bureau of Animal Health and Livestock

The **Animal Health and Livestock Bureau** is responsible for regulatory animal disease control and prevention programs through the inspection and investigation of livestock, livestock facilities, and the movement of animals in intrastate, interstate and international commerce. The bureau is also responsible for the prevention and control of emerging and emergency diseases. Bureau staff participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperative Disease Control programs for cattle, horses, swine, sheep, domestic cervidae, ratites, llamas, poultry, and fish. The bureau shares one veterinarian with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game who works on transmissible diseases of wildlife as well as domestic animals. The bureau and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game are working cooperatively to address Brucellosis in free-ranging elk.



Idaho cattle on the move.

This bureau is also responsible for the protection of ground and surface water from waste generated on beef cattle animal feeding operations, which is accomplished through inspection of waste handling and containment facilities, and review and approval of new or modified facilities. This bureau is also responsible for ensuring the proper disposal of dead animals.

Bureau staff answers numerous questions and inquiries from the public, veterinary practitioners and the livestock industry on matters pertaining to disease control, preventive medicine, interstate shipment, herd management, animal care and waste management. They also issue permits or licenses for animal agriculture functions and provide animal welfare education; investigate animal care complaints; and work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and the court system in the resolution of animal care cases and animal movement violations. The bureau coordinates with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to address diseases that are transmissible between animals and humans, and with the Bureau of Disaster Services on animal health emergency management.

The **Animal Health Laboratory** serves consumers and agriculture through prioritized testing of animal samples and dairy products for diseases or agents targeted as most important to animal health and human safety.

Recent Achievements

- Increased animal care investigations.
- Established a State Animal Health Emergency Management Plan.
- Improved manure/odor management.
- Rewrote numerous regulatory rules for clarity and brevity.
- Hired a new veterinarian to address the Brucellosis issues in Eastern Idaho.
- Trained 75+ private practice veterinarians in animal health emergency response.

Future Goals

- Participate in a National Animal Identification and Premises Identification program.
- Improve Johnes disease management.
- Enhance animal health laboratory services.
- Develop statewide animal care program in cooperation with counties.

Division of Plant Industries



Inspector sampling animal feed for laboratory analysis.

tests on fertilizer samples; and 15,539 tests on seed samples. In most cases, deficiencies were corrected. If not, "Stop Sale" orders were issued: 18 on seed products; 52 on feed products; and 20 on nursery products. Inspectors also conducted 866 nursery inspections for pests, diseases and noxious weeds. Through this program, the sale of animal feed products contaminated with aflatoxin, fumonisin or vomitoxin have been prevented. In addition, these measures have prevented the spread of noxious weeds through contaminated seed lots offered for sale.



Inspector walks a bean field inspecting seed for export.

Pest Exclusion and Mitigation

The most important goal of this program is the early detection of introduced exotic pests. Every year this division conducts a trapping program for a variety of endemic and exotic pests. This year surveys were conducted for: Asian and European gypsy moth, European corn borer, western cherry fruit fly, Japanese beetle, European pine shoot moth, and Karnal bunt. This program provides data to meet the phytosanitary requirements for a number of countries and states; and validates Idaho quarantines. In 2003, no gypsy moths or adult Japanese beetles were caught in detection traps. However, cereal leaf beetle was found in Custer and Lemhi counties. A cereal leaf beetle egg and larval parasite insectary is being established at the University of Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station in Parma. Division personnel also released larval parasites as bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle in Washington and Owyhee counties. The Haanchen mealy bug was detected in Caribou County for the first time in Idaho. It was found infesting barley. No other significant detections were made. The timely detection of these exotic pests allows for the effective control before a viable population is established.

The Plant Industries Division is responsible for: consumer protection, export certification, pest exclusion, control of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets, noxious weeds, the certification of organic food products and the inspection of potato brands and potatoes at the retail outlets. The division has 43 full-time and 25-40 seasonal temporary employees.

Consumer Protection

In 2003, the division issued 1,886 nursery licenses; 591 seed dealer's licenses; 557 registration certificates for 8,113 feed products; 345 registration certificates for 3,681 fertilizer products; 125 registration certificates for 410 soil and plant amendment products; and 64 beekeeper registrations. Plant Industry Division inspectors randomly

sample to test for compliance to truth-in-labeling for pet food, animal feed, fertilizers and seeds offered for sale. The laboratories conducted 2,946 tests on feed samples; 1,445

Export Certification

Idaho is a major producer of agricultural seeds. In 2003, Idaho exported over 165 million pounds of alfalfa, field and garden beans, sweet corn, Kentucky bluegrass, peas, onion seeds, and miscellaneous agricultural products to 97 countries. The division's staff inspected over 71,000 acres of crops; the plant pathology laboratory conducted 2,026 tests on 598 plant samples for diseases; and the division issued 1,660 state and 3,361 federal phytosanitary certificates. The division continues to work to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers, which restrict the export of Idaho agricultural products.

Control of Grasshoppers and Mormon Crickets

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket population levels were not widespread, although high densities were observed at several isolated locations. Most complaints came from areas where the insects were actually in the crops or on other private property. Groups also worked cooperatively to distribute bait to farmers and ranchers in areas with heavy grasshopper infestations. Approximately 208,000 pounds of bait were distributed. ISDA participated with private land owners in cooperative area-wide control projects for 66,851 acres of cricket and grasshopper infested private and state-owned lands. Mormon Cricket infestations have been increasing in Ada, Boise, Elmore, and especially, Owyhee counties.



Mormon cricket after an application of the growth regulator Dimilin™.

Organic and Hop Programs

In April 2002, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture received its accreditation as an organic certifying agency by the United State Department of Agriculture National Organic Program. For organic certification, a producer/handler must submit an application; undergo an on-site inspection; and pay a nominal application fee. If all requirements are met, the producer/handler is then certified as organic for the crops grown, livestock raised or commodity handled. With the publication of new National Organic Program rules, the state's certification program has experienced an even greater interest. Since the program's inception in 1990 it has grown from 11 participants to 187. From the end of August through September, this division also conducted 141 hop inspections.

Noxious Weed Management Program

The Noxious Weed Management Program has the primary responsibility for implementing the Idaho Noxious Weed Law and Idaho's Strategic Plan for Managing Noxious Weeds. Staff provides leadership, training and support to local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) around the state. The 2003 Cost Share Program provided over 1.2 million dollars in grants to CWMAs and statewide groups to implement on-the-ground integrated weed management. The program applicants matched the Cost Share dollars with over 4.6 million dollars, treating over 110,000 acres and mapping over 330,000 acres. Other programs administered by the staff include the Noxious Weed Free Forage and Straw Program and the Noxious Weed Mapping and Inventory Program. Personnel participate on various task forces, including the Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee, the Idaho Invasive Species Council, and coordinate the activities of ISDA's Noxious Weed Advisory Committee.



Tour hosted by the Jordon Valley CWMA to discuss leafy spurge control actions.

Recent Achievements

- Inspected 46 Idaho facilities for compliance with the United States Food and Drug Administration Ruminant Feeding Ban to prevent the introduction of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy into the U.S. cattle industry.
- Division staff presented information about the exotic pest detection programs at two of the University of Idaho's Winter Crop Schools.
- The first shipments of grown sweet corn seed to Australia were made under the new Australian Protocol.
- Hired a plant pest survey and detection program manager.

Future Goals

- Conduct an industry audit of the feed tonnage reporting system.
- Monitor the survival and establishment of bio-control agents for cereal leaf beetle.
- Improve the turn-around time in the processing of feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment registrations.
- Continue to improve our turn-around time in the issuance of phytosanitary certificates.
- Develop a new feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment computer database and registration system.
- Develop a paperless inspection, sampling and registration system for the pest detection, nursery-florists licenses, as well as the feed, fertilizer, and soil and plant amendment programs.

Idaho Soil Conservation Commission

Created in 1939, the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) provides support and service to Idaho's Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the wise use and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. The Commission consists of five members appointed by Idaho's governor to staggered five-year terms. Three non-voting advisors are authorized to serve at the invitation of the Commission: the State Conservationist with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the President of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, and the Dean of the College of Agriculture, University of Idaho. The ISCC administrator manages the 21-member staff responsible for programs and water quality efforts in agriculture and grazing, conservation program delivery and conservation district needs. Over 20,000 Idaho farmers, ranchers and landowners are served through districts. Most staff work through a Soil Conservation District, in the field, providing technical assistance directly to Idaho landowners and assisting with projects within public, private, local, state and federal entities.



Water is a precious resource that sustains irrigated agriculture across Idaho.

Clearwater Focus and Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project

The Clearwater River subbasin was designated a Focus Program under the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program in November 1996 to coordinate habitat enhancement and restoration work. The Clearwater Focus Program is co-coordinated by the ISCC and the Nez Perce Tribe Fisheries Department Watershed Division on behalf of Idaho State and the Nez Perce Tribe. The Focus Program is the largest coordinated effort in the Columbia River Basin. Project proposals are reviewed by the Independent Science Review Committee and then submitted to the Council. The Council then recommends accepted proposals to the Bonneville Power Administration for funding.

In 1992, the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project (USBWP) was established to restore and protect the habitats of anadromous and resident fish and to achieve a balance between resource protection efforts and beneficial use activities. The USBWP encompasses the Salmon River and all of its tributaries, from the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River to the headwaters near Stanley, Idaho. The project has a combined drainage area of over 4 million acres. The USBWP works to implement a variety of habitat restoration projects, including installation of riparian fencing, pasture management programs, irrigation efficiency improvements, diversion structure modifications, and ditch consolidation or elimination. Fencing projects have helped to stabilize stream banks and promote the growth of riparian vegetation, allowing reduced sediments in spawning gravels and shade for the stream. Improvements to irrigation systems yield more efficient water use throughout the basin which leaves more water in streams, provides more spawning and rearing habitat, and reduces passage barriers.



Ranchers in the USBWP area are installing in-stream structures like this one to provide important pool habitat for salmon.

The Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP) provides long-term, low-interest loans to farmers and ranchers for conservation improvements. Loans are available up to \$100,000 for terms of up to 15 years. Projects should address environmental issues, including (but not limited to) the following items: Soil and water resource conservation, efficient and beneficial use of water resources, riparian area improvement, fish and wildlife habitat restoration and preservation, and increased agricultural productivity of croplands, pasture and hayland, rangeland, and woodland.

Conservation Improvement Grants: monetary grants are available through the Water Quality Program for Agriculture (WQPA). Grants may be awarded for improvements to water quality and soil conservation and to demonstrate new or innovative conservation improvement practices/systems for rangeland and riparian areas. This program provides grants up to \$10,000 to individuals, partnerships, trusts, estates, private corporations or other legal entities. Qualifying practices must be implemented on public or private land identified as part of a project plan in Idaho. Grant monies must be matched by the

implemented on public or private land identified as part of a project plan in Idaho. Grant monies must be matched by the recipient in cash, materials, labor, or use of equipment for the installation of practices. Grants are awarded based on rank according to set priorities and may be awarded as part of a RCRDP Program low-interest loan. For more information about availability of grant monies or eligibility, visit your local Conservation District or find us on the web at www.scc.state.id.us.

The WQPA was created to protect and enhance the quality and value of Idaho's waters by controlling and abating water pollution from agricultural nonpoint sources. This program provides cost-share assistance to entities implementing water quality projects. The Commission selects projects for funding, evaluates program effectiveness in reducing agricultural nonpoint source pollution, provides technical assistance, and supports conservation districts in further planning and implementation.

The State Revolving Fund (SRF), like the Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (RCRDP), provides long-term, low-interest loans for conservation improvements on private and public lands. What makes SRF different is that no pre-set limit has been placed on amounts borrowed. Another important difference is the ranking system employed to determine project priority. The following list (in order of importance) is used by when prioritizing potential projects: Public health emergency or public health hazard; watershed restoration; watershed protection.

The Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan (Ag Plan) is a dynamic guidance document that outlines the strategy for the abatement of agricultural nonpoint source pollution as it relates to water quality in Idaho. The Ag Plan was created to



Center pivot sprinkler irrigation system.

address water quality issues of water bodies impacted by agricultural nonpoint source pollutants. The Ag Plan provides guidance in the restoration and maintenance of water quality so that affected water bodies may fully support identified beneficial uses (as defined by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality) such as recreational activities, domestic or agricultural water supply, and wildlife habitat. The plan is part of the State's over-all program to manage nonpoint source pollution and meet federal water quality requirements. The Ag Plan defines authorities, roles and responsibilities and outlines crucial management methods, such as the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring and evaluation activities. The Soil Conservation Commission also provides leadership in the assessment of agricultural and private forest lands in Idaho relating to carbon sequestration potential.

Recent Achievements:

- Working with the Governor's office, awarded \$163,000 in grants for groundwater mitigation in the Eastern Snake River Plane through the RCRDP Grant program using funds allocated from the WQPA program.
- Provided technical riparian training to various agency personnel and ranchers through workshops.
- Assisted in completing the Salmon subbasin plan.
- Staff provided ongoing training for District employees and supervisors, training over 300 individuals in computer programs, laws affecting conservation, and personnel management.
- Assisted six districts in acquiring and implementing over \$4.1 million in contract funds from the Bonneville Power Administration to restore fish and wildlife habitat on private lands in the Clearwater and Salmon subbasins.
- Completed agricultural components of 23 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed implementation plans. (Twenty-five additional plans are in various stages of completion.)
- Allocated \$850,968 in cost-share to local landowners and provided 18 loans totaling \$1,135,966 and 18 grants totaling \$102,335.

Future Goals:

- Provide statewide leadership for the development and implementation of TMDL watersheds.
- Complete 4 TMDL watershed implementation plans and initiate 7 new TMDL watershed-planning starts.
- Provide maintenance and support to 45 WQPA projects and ensure effectiveness and applicability in meeting TMDL objectives.
- Submit projects through the State Revolving Fund, which could provide an additional \$5 million to be used toward TMDLs and water quality programs.
- Implement OnePlan conservation planning module statewide.
- Provide local and statewide leadership for the integration of state and federal funding programs for implementation of BMPs within high priority TMDL watersheds.
- Provide leadership in the Department of Energy sponsored Northwest Regional Partnership for determining carbon sequestration opportunities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.
- Complete the Upper Salmon River Basin Conservation Memorandum of Understanding.
- Continue to provide training and support to District employees and supervisors.